**Wilson Greene Regional Housing Meeting**

**May 16, 2017**

Present: Candice Rountree, WCDSS; Shannon Leidy, Salvation Army of Wilson; Mary Mallory, WCDSS; Lynne White, Wesley Shelter; Shana Baum, Hope Station; Judi Thurston, United Way; Tony Conner, NCWORKS; Lori Walston, WCDSS; Linda Walling, Hope Station; Ashley Higson, WCDSS; Linda Barfield, Upper Coastal Plains Council of Government; Mary Marlin, UCPCOG; Valinda Belton, Wilson Housing Authority; Tamey Knight, Veterans of America

Welcome/Introductions

We reviewed March minutes, and Lynne made a motion to approve, Judi seconded the motion, and all voted in favor of approval.

Candice will serve on the Scorecard Committee, and another representative from the Neuse Regional Committee will serve on the Project Review Committee. This is a requirement as a Regional Committee.

We discussed Coordinated Assessment and how we can make improvements locally. Linda agreed to pull together a small working group to review our process. LaTasha and Candice have updated the Neuse plan and are waiting for feedback from BOS.

Linda mentioned that she and Shana attended the housing conference last week in Raleigh and that it was a great conference. Hope Station has agreed to designate a bed in the shelter for veterans. Linda wants to know if we would be able to use SSVF grant funds to help with hotel expenses for veterans.

Mary asked for numbers served and dollars spent in ESG. Linda explained that their internet service was down and she wasn’t able to pull that data. DSS as fiscal sponsor is waiting for county office to enter financial information in order to access ESG funds. The County Commissioners approved receipt of the funding May 1, 2017.

We discussed our Region’s need for a lead agency and there are no interested agencies at this time.

Linda shared that the ESG office has a former ESG grantee working there and she is committed to streamlining the reimbursement process.

Tony – had no update to share

Lynne – Wesley Shelter’s bathrooms renovations have begun and they are in the process of receiving designs for the Safe House renovations; they plans must be historically correct.

Judi – United Way is gearing up for their campaign; they also have emergency food and shelter funds through FEMA, approximately $45,000 - $55,000.

Shannon – Salvation Army is providing food and clothing assistance. They are doing a new program called Pathway of Hope, working with families who have kids under 18 trying to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. They are partnering with Work First at DSS. The family completes the Rhode Island URICA Assessment that measures a participant’s readiness for change. Shannon agreed to share that tool with the group.

Mary – Upper Coastal has a new nonprofit that will focus on housing for seniors, they are looking at land in Sharpsburg and will serve ages 50 – 62 with no dependents.

Mary Mallory – VITA will be moving into the community, DSS and the Self Help Bank will do VITA next year

Tamey – VOA, please send referrals when working with homeless veterans, or those veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless

Lori – DSS is hosting a foster parent banquet this Friday night, we are not having a foster care crisis because of our work on the front end with Signs of Safety and our trauma informed practice. We are looking for foster parents, as many of our parents adopt.

Linda – Swamp Stomp fundraiser was held at Greenfield School and was a great success. There were 200 runners. The next fundraiser is Music for Hope on June 23rd. They are moving forward with plans for a new shelter in the community. In our new Neuse Region, there is only one family shelter in the 6 county region. Hope Station has always served Wilson County, but are willing to consider serving other counties. Housing stock in Wilson is low with 40 units from WHA being gone due to flooding. Landlords don’t provide appliances, and this is a real need.

Candice – Our housing work, Solutions for Homelessness won a National Association of Counties award. I will be nominating our collaborative work for a Local Government Federal Credit Union Innovation award.

Valinda – Wilson Housing Authority has Senior Day on 5-18. They will be acquiring Varita Court apartments, all tenants will remain and this is housing for ages 62 and above. They are moving to making on units smoke free, as this is a HUD requirement. WCHD will offer smoking cessation services to residents. She asked that we work on our homeless referrals and only refer those that are homeless.

Next meeting scheduled for June 20, 2017.